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or millets and flood rice over restricted areas. The winter crops are wheat, beans, barley, vegetables, peas, and clover. Parts of Egypt have perennial irrigation, and these can produce two or three crops a year. Others are irrigated only in flood, or if they are below the level of the Nile flood they may carry water for some time, which water is then drained off and the ground tilled. There is an elaborate statement of the problems of cultivated and uncultivated land in the several regions of Egypt and the proportion of cultivated land that receives its water supply by each of the two systems mentioned above.

Sir William emphasizes the fact that aside from flood protection the great problem of Egypt is to secure a water supply sufficient to furnish irrigation water when the Nile is low. Otherwise there is insufficient room for the very rapidly growing population, which has doubled in the last forty years and is increasing at the rate of 200,000 a year. He emphasizes particularly the value of the Sudan region of the White Nile, hitherto unutilizable, a vast waste of marsh and water which receives the flood waters of the Lake Albert region and which if properly controlled by engineering works could be made to supply all the water needed for many years to come. He would utilize the fall of the Nile to generate electrical power for lifting water otherwise unavailable. Associated with this plan is that of changing the present wasteful "basin irrigation system" of upper Egypt, which involves the flooding of low-lying bodies in the Nile Valley, to "perennial irrigation" which requires the conservation of flood waters and the pumping of the river water into the irrigation canals. The peak of the annual flood would thus be taken off and Egypt freed from all danger of inundation.

A MONTANA COUNTY GEOGRAPHY

O. W. FREEMAN. **Geography and Geology of Fergus County.** 71 pp.; map, ills., bibliogr., index. *Fergus County High School Bull. 2*, Lewistown, Mont., 1919.

This small handbook, descriptive of a county in the center of Montana, has been prepared less for school use than in response to a demand for instruction on the part of the public. It is an excellent example of the manner in which an enterprising school may itself reach out to edify the adults of the community, and it therefore deserves grateful recognition.

The first bulletin of this series, published over ten years ago, described the "Birds of Fergus County"; a third is planned on the "History and Civics" of the county, for which we trust it may not be necessary to wait another decade, and in which we earnestly hope to see expression of a vigorous and whole-souled but not boastful American spirit, clearly stating our ideals and fairly setting forth our successes but not glossing over difficulties, dangers, and failures.

The chapters of the present bulletin give a good selection of information on the physical features and setting of the county, its towns and cities, geology and mineral resources, climate and ground water, soils and the relation of these features to agriculture and settlement.

The final chapter deals with the origin of local names. The text is embellished by several half-tone illustrations, one of which is an exceptionally fine two-page view showing foothills, bench land and bottom land, the locality of which is unfortunately omitted. The outline map of the county, supplied from the state capital, would be much improved if redrawn on a larger scale and reduced so that the lines and the lettering should be finer and clearer; the name of Musselshell River should be added along the eastern border. The bibliography at the beginning and the index at the end of the bulletin add much to its value.

Fergus County fully deserves not only three but a whole series of bulletins, for its area is almost as great as that of Massachusetts. It occupies the southwestern angle between the Missouri and Musselshell Rivers, and includes on its southwestern border parts of the Little Belt and Big Snowy Mountains of anticlinal structure, marginal members of the Rocky Mountain system. Near the county center the Judith and Moccasin mountains are residual masses maintained on igneous sheets and dikes in the higher members of the horizontal Plains strata; but the greatest part of the county lies in the Great Plains province. It offers an excellent field for geographical and geological exposition. As a general comment on the method of presentation employed, in so far as geography is concerned, it may be noted that the connection existing between various related facts is, by reason of their separate mention in different chapters, too often less explicitly brought out than is desirable as a means of introducing the "causal notion" into the popular conception of geography. For example, the second chapter on towns and cities is almost wholly empirical in its descriptions; again, the paragraphs on caves, which are described under "picturesque features" with a disproportionate amount of space given to ice caverns, do not sufficiently emphasize the control of their distribution by the tilted outcrops of the heavy mountain limestones. The penultimate chapter on geographical influences and consequences stands too far removed from the earlier accounts of physical features. The chapter on climate would be much improved if vivid explanatory descriptions of different types of weather were added to the text and tables in which the average values of climatic elements are presented.

On the other hand, by searching through the various chapters more information will be found concerning the origin of surface forms than is usually to be discovered in popular scientific essays. Properly enough, in view of the object of the bulletin, greater space is alloted to the nonapparent facts of geology, such as the great series of stratified formations from Cambrian to Tertiary, than to the manifest facts of geography, in spite of the first place given to this subject in the bulletin title; but geographers must be grateful for the intelligence with which many topics of their science are handled.

The reviewer heartily joins the author in wishing "to commend the long-sighted vision and the broadmindedness of the Board of Trustees in their efforts to disseminate local information." May their good example be widely followed!

W. M. DAVIS

AN ENGLISH COUNTY GEOGRAPHY

W. W. WATTS. **Shropshire: The Geography of the County.** x and 254 pp.; maps diagrs., ills. Wilding & Son, Ltd., Shrewsbury, England, 1916. 2s 6d. 7 x 5 inches.

Had this attractive little volume been given the subtitle of "A General Description of the County" and published as one of a series of "County Handbooks," instead of as one of a series of "County Geographies," those interested in the progress of geographical science would not need to concern themselves particularly with its contents or its method of treatment; for all sorts of topics would have been properly included under a general title. But when all sorts of topics are gathered under the title "Geography" and presented in a manner that too frequently omits the essential characteristics of good geographical treatment by failing to point out the connection between event and environment, geographers must express their regret at the misunderstanding of their subject that will result, all the more because the author of the book is a scientist of high standing, whose opinion as to what constitutes geography will be accepted as authoritative by most readers.

The method of the book may be illustrated by two of its chapters. The first includes a section on physical features, under which the relief of the shire is described for the most part empirically, following a method that is going out of fashion even for popular handbooks. The following section treats the geological history of the underlying formations rationally, although with attention chiefly directed to depositional history and with insufficient consideration of erosional history, which in a geographical handbook is surely of equal importance.

The longest chapter of the book attempts to deal with "Historical Geography" and indeed presents much information on races and population, place names, written history, prehistory and antiquities, buildings and architecture, and great Salopians. All of this chapter is replete with interesting details, but it might have been just as well or better called county history, for it follows the order of time, not of place; and it too frequently omits all indication of a causal connection between occurrences and places, by which alone a truly geographical flavor can be given.

The really significant feature of this little book as a "County Geography" is that it represents the prevalent British idea of what a county geography ought to be; that is, a vaguely defined mixture of geology and history. Now that a "geographical tripos" and "honors in geography" have been established in at least one of the leading Universities of England, we shall look to the professors of geography there and to their students to redeem their subject from the status of a sort of hybrid learning and to develop it for itself just as geology and history are so worthily developed.

W. M. DAVIS

THE BRITISH FISHING INDUSTRY

NEAL GREEN. **Fisheries of the North Sea.** 178 pp.; map, ills. Methuen & Co., Ltd., London, 1918. 7½ x 5 inches.

A small, informing, and authoritative book on these fisheries, with final chapters on fishing ports and the migration of fish, and a brief notice of the industry in North American waters. The author wastes no words and covers much ground in small space. Among other things he points out that Britain does not import fish from any country under foreign flags for the reason that she is in the center of the greatest fishing grounds in the world; and these banks often provide ten times as much food per acre as does the same area of good land. The world, he says, has 10,000,000 square miles of shallow waters where fish thrive; and should now make the most of the food, oils, and other products that fish supply. Of all the British food industries, the fisheries have received the least permanent damage by the war. The quantity of fish landed during the war was only about thirty per cent of normal, but the annual landings may now be vastly enlarged. The concluding pages are given to the chief British fishing grounds near home and the consideration of what should be done for their further development.

CYRUS C. ADAMS